



**Cedar Grove UMC**

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## **The Beacon March 2016**



### **Office Hours**

Monday	10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Tuesday	10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Wednesday	10:00 am to 4:00 pm

### *From the Pastor's Desk . . .*

Easter 2016

As Paul states so clearly in 1 Corinthians 15, if Jesus did not rise from the dead then Christians are to be pitied. For the foundation of our faith in history, practice, and truth is that Jesus rose on the third day. Why is this so important? Well, first of all if Jesus didn't rise from the dead then He died and stayed dead. And since He is the way and the truth for us, that means only death would await us. Further, the resurrection of Jesus reminds us that Jesus did die and as we believe paid the price for our sins. He took our punishment upon Himself that by believing in Him, we have salvation and eternal life with God. But if Jesus did not rise on the third day, neither will we and all is lost. Because He arose we know that His death was not a defeat but rather a victory, a victory for us that brings salvation and eternal life to who believe in Him.

It is my hope that all of you will take the time during holy week to come to our Holy Thursday and Good Friday services which are so important for putting the great celebration of Easter Sunday in context. One must go through the last supper, the betrayal of Jesus, His suffering and death to know what a great and glorious day Easter is for all who believe in Him. And to understand all that His rising means for us.

I hope you are enjoying our going through the meaning of the Apostles Creed and now have a better understanding of not only what we affirm in the creed and how it comes straight from the Bible, but also what we mean when we say, 'I believe'. The central part of the creed is about Jesus, who came to us born of a virgin, human like us, the Son of God, who suffered, died, and rose, for us and our promise, in thanksgiving to the Father and empowered by the Holy Spirit live our lives first and foremost for Jesus.

It is my prayer for all of you that you have a spiritual holy week and great celebration on Easter Sunday and that everyone in your life knows that you believe that Christ has died, Christ has risen, and that Christ will come again and that ultimately that is what you live for, in thanks, every day.

Your fellow servant of a crucified and risen Savior,

*Glen*



## CHURCH NEWS

**Winter Meltdown Success** – The group of youth and adults who went to Winter Meltdown had a great time of fellowship, learning about Jesus, and fun. Thanks to the adult chaperones and those who helped fund this trip for our youth.

**Homosexuality and The United Methodist Church** – If you checked out the conference newspaper and/or website you will know that the Board of Ordained Ministry of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference has put forward a married lesbian to become a provisional deacon. She will be put before the executive session of the Annual Conference this year for approval. Further, the General Conference of the whole denomination will be considering changing the position of the church on homosexual sex from seeing it as sin to seeing it as approved by God. In **next month's newsletter** I will have an article in the newsletter inviting you to look at what the Bible says about homosexual sex and marriage. I will also recommend a few books for you to read more about it. Please continue to pray for our conference and our denomination as we go through this process of considering whether or not our church will stick to the Bible and the historic position of the church on this issue or change it. Regardless of what happens, we are brothers and sisters and we need to be informed and civil as we work through this difficult issue.

**Wednesday Night Dinners** – We have sufficient dinners on hand, thanks to Peggy and Dick, to continue their supply of twice a month dinners through April 2016. Now we need your help if our church wishes to continue the Wednesday night dinner event. We need individuals or groups of church people to accept the responsibility of providing the Wednesday dinner. If you or your group is willing to do this, either once a month or more than that, please contact the office or Bill Kline so that a schedule can be made for the dinners to continue. We normally provide dinner for about 50 people and the menu is at the discretion of the provider. Time is growing short for someone to step forward and see that this ministry continues. If we are to continue to have the dinners resume in the Fall, we need someone or group of people to step forward to cover the fourth and fifth Wednesdays (when there is a fifth Wednesday). If someone does not come forward by **May 1 we will not have the dinners in the Fall.**

**Scripture readers on Sunday mornings!** It has been great having some different voices read the Scripture on Sunday mornings. We would love to have even more voices. If you are interested there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex and if you do sign up we will send you the reading electronically or inform you over the phone as to what the reading is. If you find the reading to be too difficult (length or hard to pronounce names) you can always let Pastor Glen know you have changed your mind. So please sign-up.

We continue to have our **Wednesday dinners** at 6pm and we would love to have more people come out to them. Invite your neighbors! Following the dinner we have Kids group, youth group, and women's Bible study at 7pm.

The **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** continues to meet and will start studying 1 John on March 1. All are welcome!

**Men's Clothing Collection for Homeless** – The 2016 Confirmation Class (Garrett Foster) is collecting men's clothing for the homeless, particularly needed are jeans, hoodies, and underwear in medium, large, and X-larges sizes. If you are able to donate any of these items, please place them in the box provided in the narthex. Garrett will be collecting items until the Homeless Trip on Sunday, March 20.

**Martha Lydia Circle Soup & Bake Sale** – The Martha Lydia ladies are holding a bake/soup sale on Saturday, March 12 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Featuring hearty homemade soups (Vegetable Beef and Ham & Bean) and scrumptious baked goods. Cost for the soup is \$7.00 a quart. Pre-order forms will be available in the Sunday bulletin. For more information contact the Church office.

**Join us for Family Movie Night**, showing "The Good Dinosaur", **Friday, March 11, at 7:00 pm**. Come with CRAZY Hair and you will get free popcorn! All ages are welcome. Our movie night snack bar will be open selling: Pizza, Popcorn, Candy and Sodas! Everything is \$1.00 or less.

**Join Us for a Community Easter Celebration.** Saturday, March 26th at 12:00 noon—2:00 pm here at Cedar Grove. *Rain or Shine*. Lots of fun activities are planned including an egg hunt, crafts, face painting, games, and a hot dog lunch. There will also be a drawing for an Easter basket! Volunteers are needed to make this event a success. We will have bags of empty eggs available and we are asking if you can please take a bag of eggs to fill and return to the church by March 20th. Please fill with candy or trinkets. We also need lots of help the day of the event! If you can help, please contact Mitzi Roby at [Mitzidawn@verizon.net](mailto:Mitzidawn@verizon.net). Thanks for your support.

**Holy Week** – Please come out to our Holy Thursday and Good Friday services. Both services begin at 7:30 pm.



## **MISSIONS CORNER**

(The Mission we are highlighting this month is **Service Project Youth aka SPY**)

Project SPY aka Service Project Youth is a week-long mission adventure for middle and high school students and their adult chaperones. Physically, it's a home repair ministry, making homes safer, warmer and drier, for families in the New River Valley (Christiansburg, VA area). Spiritually, we seek to be God's hands and feet in the world.

Because of God's love for us, we work to love others in tangible ways. Some examples of projects include: painting, roofing, replacing gutters, yard work, building ramps, decks, wiring, paneling, plumbing, flooring, supports, masonry, ceilings, fixing leaky toilets *and more*. Cedar Grove has been attending SPY at Fieldstone UMC since 2009 and the program gets better each year! **This year we will attending July 16-22**. For more details about the SPY go to <http://www.fieldstoneumc.org/#/project-spy/historymore> or contact Pam Foster at [pamjimf@comcast.net](mailto:pamjimf@comcast.net). Please keep this mission in your prayers.



*We hope you can join us this year!*



## **BOOK CORNER**



United Methodist Doctrine: The Extreme Center  
by Scott Jones Abingdon Press 2002 311pgs

This month I want to share with you a great book, that at first I didn't like. The book is divided into three sections, the first and third are very short and are in my opinion the weaker parts of the book, but the middle section, which is about 170 pages and covers what Methodists believe about the basic doctrines of the church, is quite excellent. I also don't like the word 'extreme' in the title, the catch phrases leave me cold. What is special about United Methodist Doctrine is that it is biblical, saving, and true, not that it is 'extreme center'.

The first part of the book tries to define the standards for Methodist theology. While not terrible, I think this information is poorly put forth. The third part of the book talks about the goal or the importance of doctrine and is okay but not spectacular. The second part of the book, by far the longest part goes through the doctrines of Trinity, Scripture, Creation/Sin/Law/Grace/Repentance, Justification by Grace through Faith, Sanctification/Christian Perfection/Last Judgment, Social Justice, and Means of Grace. Each chapter is well written, strikes the right Methodist tone and really sets Methodist belief in relation to general Christian teaching.

The book is well written but requires a serious reader. Those not up on theological language might need to keep a dictionary or better a theological dictionary handy, but even with that said any Christian will benefit from reading this book. My favorite line is on the controversial doctrine of Christian perfection where Jones writes, 'If one is not going on to perfection, where is one going?' For me it doesn't matter if we are ever able to as Wesley believed walk at times with God in perfection, it is a good goal that will always keep you striving to be a better Christian and that is always a good thing. So I heartily recommend this book and if you do decide to read it I will be happy to help you with any questions you might have.

*Pastor Glen Arnold*